

Crowded: Knight is not a substitute for public library

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"People are finding that they have to go home and that they can't do any research here," said Williams.

The majority of the seating has given way to shelving that is spread out across the main room. Williams said the building isn't constructed to handle the weight of the books in that particular area, which is why the aisles are abnormally wide between the rows of books.

When the library first opened in 1959, books and other materials amounted to 57,345 items. Over the last 38 years, the library has acquired more than four times that amount, totaling 289,139 items in 1997.

Other space has been sacrificed as well. One of the conference rooms was used to accommodate an Internet computer room. "We used [the room] to hold 1,200 meetings a year," Williams said.

Even though the library has seen an increase of 68,942 borrowers since it opened, Williams said the demand would be even greater if a new library was built.

She said a survey the library does every three years shows that its current state affects patronage.

"We are always told that people don't use the library because it is too crowded and too noisy."

She said all of that would be different with a new or expanded building.

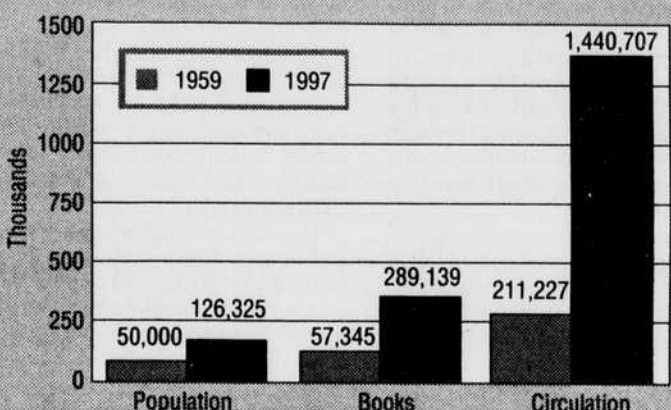
"Every single library that has expanded, upgraded or has added branches has seen a population increase of up to 50 percent," Williams said.

Even the University's Knight Library can't offer any relief from the crowded Eugene Public Library.

"Our collections are very different in nature," said Deborah

Increase in use of Eugene Public Library

Circulation at the Eugene Public Library has increased dramatically since 1959, while population and number of books have increased less substantially.



CARA STRAZZO/Emerald

Carver, associate librarian for Knight Library. "We don't offer very much relief.

"They need a public library, and a good one," she said. "We

are not a substitute."

Carver said some people have argued that Knight Library is a good replacement. "There have been people who have said 'Why

do we need a new library, when we have the largest research library in the state?"

However, Carver said, "We are complementary, we don't duplicate; we have very different missions."

A Better Library for Everybody and the Mayor's Library Improvement Committee are both working on the overcrowding problem. The committee recently released a brochure illustrating the urgency of the library's situation. It was released last Sunday at an event for the library, which nearly 200 community members attended.

Eugenia Dressel, a Eugene resident who uses the library on a regular basis has noticed the need for a new library.

"A city is known by its library," she said. "It shows what the people care about. If money is not put up for a new library, it means it is not willing to put up for an education."

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Faculty Awards For Distinguished Teaching

Now is the time to make nominations for awards which will be presented at Spring Commencement to University of Oregon faculty members for distinguished teaching. Graduate teaching fellows, who have their own competition, are ineligible for these awards. Each of these awards will be accompanied by a monetary prize. Students, faculty, staff and alumni can submit nominations. If you wish to make a nomination, you should send it to the following address using the form below or another sheet of paper:

Lorraine G. Davis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
207 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon

Please send your nominations no later than April 10, 1998

Eligibility for Awards

Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching

The late Mr. A. J. Ersted established the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching so the University of Oregon could annually honor faculty members "who have taught comparatively short periods and have demonstrated exceptional abilities to induce students to reason and not merely memorize." The Ersted Award can go only to faculty who are early in their teaching careers. This teaching may occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching

This award continues the tradition begun by the Burlington Northern Foundation by honoring senior faculty members who have achieved outstanding records as teachers. The Thomas F. Herman Award can go only to faculty members who have held academic rank at the University of Oregon for at least seven years, and who have demonstrated excellence in teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level.

I nominate _____ for the

- Ersted Award
 Thomas F. Herman Award

(Check one)

The reasons for this nomination are as follows:

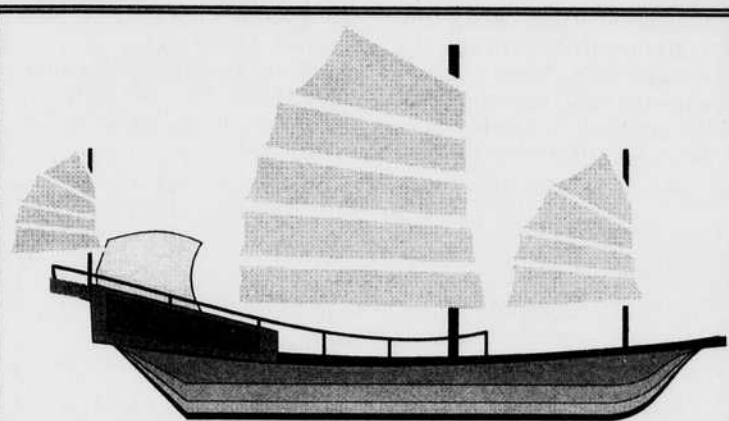
(Please feel free to attach an additional sheet, if necessary.)

Signature of nominator _____

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Please indicate your status: Student Faculty Alum Staff



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